

LYCHNOCULUS MIRABILIS MURRAY, 1877 (PISCES):
PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF BOTH GENERIC AND
SPECIFIC NAMES. Z.N.(S.)1393

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The applicant here requests the International Commission to suppress under their plenary powers both the generic and the specific names that form the binomen *Lychnoculus mirabilis*, proposed by Sir John Murray ('Manchester Lectures' — Science Lectures Delivered in (the Hulme Town Hall) Manchester, series 9, 1877, p. 132) for the same series of benthonic fishes collected by the 'Challenger' which was subsequently given the generic and specific names *Ipnops murrayi* by Dr. Albert Carl Ludwig Gotthilf Günther (*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, ser. 5, no. 8, 1878, p. 187).

2. Of the deep-sea fishes taken by the 'Challenger', few attracted such immediate and general interest as a series of small fishes which bore unique structures on the head, structures presumed by some to be eyes, but by others, luminous organs. Consequently, these fishes, or more particularly the cephalic organs, received considerable attention prior to Günther's preliminary diagnoses of certain 'Challenger' species in 1878. Most of the workers who discussed this species before Günther's description of *Ipnops murrayi* prudently avoided the use of a binominal Latin name, and Günther's name, *Ipnops murrayi*, has been used exclusively for this species since its proposal eighty years ago.

3. In 1877, Sir John Murray, during the course of a popular science lecture given in the Hulme Town Hall, Manchester, discussed this "wonderful lamp eye" fish, providing it, possibly inadvertently, with the new generic and specific names *Lychnoculus mirabilis*. This lecture, and the new name proposed there, were published but soon forgotten. It was not known to Günther in 1878, although he must have known of Sir John's interest in this fish, for he named it in Murray's honour. According to the Catalogue of the Library of the British Museum (Natural History) (vol. 3, 1910, p. 1383; vol. 4, 1913, p. 1881), the first edition of these 'Manchester Science Lectures' is wanting in that library, although the 1883

edition (not seen) is on deposit there. Hence, it seems likely that the publication of *Lychnoculus mirabilis* was unknown to Günther, and save for a footnote reference to the Manchester paper in Murray and Hjort's 'Depths of the Ocean' (1912, footnote, p. 687), neither Murray's name nor the paper in which it was published appears to have been referred to since.

4. *Lychnoculus mirabilis* is thus an objective senior synonym of *Ipnotops murrayi*, the latter a binomen widely used in both popular and technical publications, a name which represents one of the world's most remarkable vertebrate animals and part of which forms the stem of the universally used family name IPNOPIDAE. The applicant therefore requests the Commission:

- (1) to use their plenary powers to suppress each of the following names, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
 - (a) the generic name *Lychnoculus* Murray (Sir John), 1877;
 - (b) the associated specific name *mirabilis* Murray, 1877; the two published in the combination *Lychnoculus mirabilis*;
- (2) to place the following generic name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology: *Ipnotops* Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878 (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Ipnotops murrayi* Günther, 1878;
- (3) to place the following specific name on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology: *murrayi* Günther, 1878, as published in the combination *Ipnotops murrayi* (type-species of *Ipnotops* Günther, 1878);
- (4) to place the family-group name IPNOPIDAE Jordan (1923, *Stanford Univ. Publ. Biol. Sci.* vol. 3, p. 155) (type genus *Ipnotops* Günther, 1878) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology;
- (5) to place the following name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology: *Lychnoculus* Murray, 1877, suppressed under (1)(a) above;
- (6) to place the following specific name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology: *mirabilis* Murray, 1877, as published in the combination *Lychnoculus mirabilis*; suppressed under (1)(b), above.